

# A Compendium of Canonical Characters



## The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes



## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
September, 1893

## The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter



"The Adventure of the  
Greek Interpreter"  
*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

01

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- 06 - John Watson
- 07 - Mycroft Holmes
- 08 - Mr. Melas



## Canonical Characters



William Hyde,  
September, 1893

## The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter”

02

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

09 – Harold Latimer

10 – Wilson Kemp

11 – Paul Kratides

12 – Sophy Kratides

13 – J. Davenport

14 – The Diogenes Club

15 – Inspector Gregson

16 – Data! Data!



# Canonical Characters

## *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes.*

By A. CONAN DOYLE.

### LXXII.—THE ADVENTURE OF THE GREEK INTERPRETER.

**D**URING my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Sherlock Holmes I had never heard him refer to his relations, and hardly ever to his own early life. This reticence upon his part had increased the somewhat inhuman effect which he produced upon me, until sometimes I found myself regarding him as an isolated phenomenon, a brain without a heart, as deficient in human sympathy as he was pre-eminent in intelligence. His aversion to women, and his disinclination to form new friendships, were both typical of his unemotional character, but not more so than his complete suppression of every reference to his own people. I had come to believe that he was an orphan with no relatives living, but one day, to my very great surprise, he began to talk to me about his brother.

It was after tea on a summer evening, and the conversation, which had roamed in a desultory, spasmodic fashion from golf clubs to the causes of the change in the obliquity of the ecliptic, came round at last to the question of atavism and hereditary aptitudes. The point under discussion was how far any singular gift in an individual was due to his ancestry, and how far to his own early training.

"In your own case," said I, "from all that you have told me it seems obvious that your faculty of observation and your peculiar ability for deduction are due to your own systematic training."

"To some extent," he answered, thoughtfully. "My ancestors were country squires, and appear to have led much the same life, and to be much more natural to their class. But, none the less, I am certain that way is in my veins, and may be traced to my grandmother, who was a French artist. Art in her family was able to take the strangest forms."

"You know that it is not only Mycroft possesses it."

This was news to me, indeed. If there were another man with such singular powers in England, how was it that neither police nor public had heard of him? I put the question, with a hint that it was my companion's modesty which made him acknowledge his brother as his superior. Holmes laughed at my suggestion.

"My dear Watson," said he, "I cannot agree with those who rank modesty among the virtues. To the logician all things should be seen exactly as they are, and to underestimate oneself is as much a departure from truth as to exaggerate one's own powers. When I say, therefore, that Mycroft has better powers of observation than I, you may take it that I am speaking the exact and literal truth."

"Is he your junior?"

"Seven years my senior."

"How comes it that he is unknown?"

"Oh, he is very well known in his own circle."

"Where, then?"

"Well, in the Diogenes Club, for example."

I had never heard of the institution, and my face must have proclaimed as much, for Sherlock Holmes pulled out his watch.

"The Diogenes Club is the queerest club in London, and Mycroft, one of the queerest men. He's always there from a quarter to five till twenty to eight. It's six now, so if you care for a stroll this beautiful evening I shall be very happy to introduce you to two curiosities."

Five minutes later we were in the street walking towards Regent Circus.

"You wonder," said my companion, "that it is that Mycroft does not use his powers for detective work. He is incapable."

"But I thought you said—"

"I said that he was my superior in observation and deduction. The detective began and ended from an arm-chair, my brother was the greatest criminal agent."

## The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter



## "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter"

03

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Sherlock Holmes finally shares with Watson he has an older brother, Mycroft, who skills exceed even his. Watson then accompanies Sherlock to the Diogenes Club to meet Mycroft.

Mycroft introduces Sherlock and Watson to Mr. Melas, who has gone through a rather unnerving experience. Melas, a noted linguist, relates how he was taken to a secret location where he was asked to act as an interpreter for a man who could only speak Greek. The man was clearly being kept prisoner. Before leaving the location, Melas found out a Greek woman called Sophy was also being held prisoner there,

Can Sherlock sort out the details provided by Melas, and how much danger is the Kratides' brother and sister facing?



# Canonical Characters



Gaston Simoes  
da Fonseca,  
1909

# The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter



## “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” (*The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*)

04

### Filmography

| <u>Date</u>        | <u>Country</u> | <u>Holmes</u> | <u>Watson</u>          |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|------------------------|
| March, 1922        | UK             | Eille Norwood | Hubert Willis          |
| January 17, 1955   | UK             | Ronald Howard | Howard Marion-Crawford |
| October 21, 1968   | UK             | Peter Cushing | Nigel Stock            |
| September 01, 1985 | UK             | Jeremy Brett  | David Burke            |

### Radiography

| <u>Date</u>       | <u>Network</u> | <u>Holmes</u>       | <u>Watson</u>    |
|-------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------|
| January 26, 1931  | NBC            | Richard Gordon      | Leigh Lovell     |
| January 15, 1940  | Blue (NBC)     | Basil Rathbone      | Nigel Bruce      |
| July 23, 1943     | Mutual         | Basil Rathbone      | Nigel Bruce      |
| April 05, 1960    | BBC            | Carleton Hobbs      | Norman Shelley   |
| February 26, 1992 | BBC            | Edward Petherbridge | David Pearl      |
| October 21, 1992  | BBC            | Clive Merrison      | Michael Williams |
| March 28, 2010    |                | John Patrick Lowrie | Lawrence Albert  |



## Canonical Characters



Sherlock Holmes



“The Adventure of the Greek  
Interpreter” 05

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

*“My ancestors were country  
squires, who appear to have  
led much the same life as is  
natural to their class.”*

Saved Greek interpreter Melas’  
life after he was kidnapped by  
Harold Latimer and Wilson  
Kemp. Introduced Watson to  
his brother Mycroft at the  
Diogenes Club.

*(Michael Pennington, 1993, The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*



## Canonical Characters



John Watson



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” 06

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

“During my long and intimate acquaintance with Mr. Sherlock Holmes I had never heard him refer to his relations and hardly ever to his own early life.”

“I had come to believe that he was an orphan with no relatives living, but one day, to my very great surprise, he began to talk to me about his brother (Mycroft).”

*“In your own case, from all that you have told me it seems obvious that your faculty of observation and your peculiar facility for deduction are due to your own systematic training.”*

*(Margaret Colin, 1992, The Return of Sherlock Holmes)*



## Canonical Characters



Mycroft Holmes



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” 07

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Brother of Sherlock, seven years older, lives in Pall Mall and frequents the Diogenes Club.

“If the art of the detective began and ended in reasoning from an arm-chair, my brother would be the greatest criminal agent that ever lived.”

“Larger and stouter than Sherlock. His body was absolutely corpulent.”

*“I hear of Sherlock everywhere since you became his chronicler.”*

(Charles Gray, 1985, *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*, “The Greek Interpreter”)



## Canonical Characters



Mr. Melas



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” 08

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Greek by birth but educated in England. Worked as a Greek interpreter in the law courts and a London guide.

Hired by Kemp and Latimer to translate for Paul Kratides and coerce him to sign away his fortune. Kidnapped by the men and left to die before being rescued by Holmes.

*“I do not believe that the police credit me -- on my word I do not.”*

*(Clive Cazes, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Greek Interpreter”)*



## Canonical Characters



Harold Latimer



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” 09

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

A tall, handsome, fashionable dressed young man, armed with a bludgeon, who hired Melas as an interpreter for Paul Kratides. Along with Wilson Kemp, he kidnapped Melas and murdered Kratides. Died after being stabbed in Hungary.

*“...if at any time to-night you attempt to raise an alarm or do anything which is against my interests, you will find it a very serious thing.”*

(Nigel Terry, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Greek Interpreter”)



## Canonical Characters



Wilson Kemp



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” 10

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

“A small, mean-looking, middle-aged man with rounded shoulders” wearing glasses with a little pointed beard, who “spoke in a nervous jerky fashion, and with little giggly laughs in between.”

Along with Harold Latimer he kidnapped Melas and murdered Paul Kratides. Died after being stabbed in Hungary.

*“If you deal fair with us, you'll not regret it; but if you try any tricks, God help you!”*

(Peter Woodthorpe, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Greek Interpreter”)



## Canonical Characters



Paul Kratides



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter” 11

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

A wealthy Greek who was tortured and murdered by Harold Latimer and Wilson Kemp after he refused to sign over his sister Sophy’s fortune.

“He was deadly pale and terribly emaciated, with the protruding, brilliant eyes of a man whose spirit is greater than his strength.”

*“Sophy! Sophy!”*

*(Anton Alexander, 1985, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes,  
“The Greek Interpreter”)*



## Canonical Characters



Sophy Kratides



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter”

12

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Sister of Paul Kratides who met Latimer on a visit to London and agreed to elope with him. Holmes believed she avenged her brother's death by stabbing Latimer and Wilson Kemp in Buda-Pesth.

*“It is so lonely up there with only -- oh, my God, it is Paul!”*

*(Victoria Harwood, 1985, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Greek Interpreter”)*



## Canonical Characters



J. Davenport



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter”

13

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Lived in Lower Brixton. Man who answered Mycroft’s newspaper ad and reported whereabouts of Sophy Kratides’ residence in Beckenham.

*“Sir, I beg to inform you that I know the young lady in question very well. If you should care to call upon me, I could give you some particulars as to her painful history.”*

*(Edward Hardwicke, 1985, The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes, “The Greek Interpreter”)*



## Canonical Characters



The Diogenes Club



## "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" 14

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Founded by Mycroft, it "contains the most unsociable and unclubable men in town. No member is permitted to take the least notice of any other one."

"Save in the Stranger's Room, no talking is, under any circumstances, allowed."

"Through the glass panelling I caught a glimpse of a large and luxurious room in which a considerable number of men were sitting about and reading papers, each in his own little nook."



## Canonical Characters



Inspector Gregson



### “The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter”

15

*(The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes)*

Scotland Yard detective who accompanied Holmes and Watson to Sophy Kratides residence, ‘The Myrtles,’ in Beckenham and discovered Paul Kratides and Mr. Melas, both bound and beaten, left to die from carbon monoxide poisoning.

*“It is a mercy that you are on the side of the Force, and not against it, Mr. Holmes.”*

*(George Cooper, 1968, Sherlock Holmes, “The Greek Interpreter”)*



## Canonical Characters



Sidney Paget,  
September, 1893

## The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter



## "The Adventure of the Greek Interpreter" (*The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes*)

16

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Chronological  
Date:

Wednesday, September 12, 1888  
(Baring-Gould)

Ranking:

# 24 of 56 short stories  
(Sherlockian poll, 1999, Stock)

Christ  
Abbreviation:

GREE